



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager 860-441-6630

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, June 01, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0129 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 18, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0120 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Suisman Shapiro Attorneys at Law - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Ledge Light Health District - \$1,875.00 - Maritime Academy Miscellaneous

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2010-0105 Change in Previously Authorized Board of Education
CIP Project

Referral

2010-0113 Joint Meeting with Noank Executive Board

Referral

2010-0118 Thames America's Cup Committee

Referral

2010-0121 FYE 2010 Suspense List

Referral

2010-0123 End Hunger CT!'s Operation Participation Grant

Referral

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors
- b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting
- c. Clerk of the Council
- d. Town Manager
- e. Town Attorney

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski
- d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets
- e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro
- h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 2010-0125 | Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 11) | Referral |
| 2010-0126 | Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 11) | Referral |
| 2010-0127 | Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 11) | Referral |
| 2010-0105 | Change in Previously Authorized Board of Education CIP Project | Referral |

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri requested that the Town Council consider a change in a previously authorized Capital Improvement Program project for enhancing educational technologies related to video furnaces, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kadri feels that a contracted, Web-based software and hosting solution would better meet the current and future needs of the school district, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the FYE 2009 CIP #5F-1 Educational Technologies-Video Furnace for \$73,000 be closed and those funds be transferred to the General Fund, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$73,000 is appropriated from the General Fund's unreserved, undesignated fund

balance to the Board of Education account #10800 - Education Services.

Refer to RTM.

Legislative History

4/22/2010 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the Whole
4/27/2010 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

The Town Manager explained a request from Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri to "re-purpose" funding that was approved in 2009 for video furnaces in the schools. The new proposal, which is similar to a subscription service, would accomplish the same goal, but by using a third party host for the videos. Although the proposal does not meet the current definition of a capital improvement project, the dollars have already been allocated and it may be appropriate for the Council to consider the request.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed his opposition to the proposal and feels this is a prime example of jumping on the latest technology before thinking it out. He suggested that the CIP funds be zeroed out and the Superintendent be asked to include it in his budget request next year along with an adequate analysis. The Councilors asked that Mr. Kadri be invited to a meeting to further explain his request.

5/25/2010 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

Paul Kadri, Superintendent of Schools, explained that the video furnace project came about as a means to provide professional development and remote access for students. A video furnace is the conduit for providing video content and is a significant ongoing investment. Groton Public Schools subsequently researched other options and considered a system similar to YouTube that would work with the smart boards being used in the classrooms. The solution provides YouTube capability as well as the ability to push video. The hardware and software costs are about \$85,000. \$73,000 was allocated in the CIP. Continuing with the video furnace technology would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The video furnaces that have been purchased will be sold or used until their useful life is depleted. Maintenance contracts on the units have not been renewed.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed skepticism about spending money on the latest technology when there are significant cost decreases and capability increases over time. He prefers to wait until there is a proven track record before spending money. Mr. Kadri stated the technology is not new or sophisticated. The payment covers hosting services for the equipment and better connectivity speed, as well as development of the security architecture, administration, and management services. Although the concept of a private video housed location is new, the technology is not.

Councilor Flax asked why YouTube can't be used and Mr. Kadri stated because of security concerns. Groton Public Schools already have video production capabilities and it would take about a year and a half to create a decent video warehouse. The \$85,000 is a one time investment with an ongoing yearly service fee of a couple of thousand dollars per year.

Councilor O'Beirne asked why these funds are not included in the regular budget since this does not qualify as a CIP project. Mr. Kadri suggested this project is consistent with the "communications" project previously approved. If Groton Public Schools had to pay for the project, the money would come out of the computer replacement fund. Discussion followed on funding options.

5/25/2010 Town Council Committee of the Whole Motion

to cancel the current CIP project and make a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$73,000, to be funded by the money in the Capital Reserve Account.

Discussion followed. Councilor Sheets discussed the legal definition of capital improvement

2010-0118 Thames America's Cup Committee

Referral

RESOLUTION PLEDGING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE THAMES AMERICA'S CUP COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Thames America's Cup Committee (TACC) has been meeting to investigate the possibility of attracting all or a portion of the next America's Cup Challenge to the Thames River/Fishers Island Sound, and

WHEREAS, TACC has estimated that they need to raise \$25,000 in order to hire a consultant to put forth a proposal to those persons involved in selecting the site of the next race, and

WHEREAS, TACC has indicated that the America's Cup Challenge and associated selection series events would have a tremendous positive economic impact on Groton and southeastern Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, TACC has stated that no Town funds will be expended until pledges totalling \$25,000 have been received, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Groton hereby authorizes a pledge of \$5,000 to the Thames America's Cup Committee from encumbered funds previously appropriated under the function Executive Management 1010.

Legislative History

5/17/2010	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the
5/25/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

Town Manager Oefinger explained that a committee has been meeting to explore the possibility of attracting the America's Cup to the area in 2013. This item is on the agenda to determine if the Town of Groton wants to formally join the effort. Frank McLaughlin, Mike Passero, and John Johnson were present to address the Council.

Mr. Johnson believes the Thames River is an ideal venue for big boat sailing and could host the events leading up to the America's Cup Challenge. Mr. Passero noted that a group has been working on this effort since early March. A consultant connected with the people who will select the venue has been selected. San Francisco, San Diego and Newport are under serious consideration. Mr. Passero provided more information about the effort. Mr. McLaughlin noted that ESPN has the America's Cup franchise and it is a Connecticut company. Mr. Johnson noted that New London has pledged \$5,000 and the committee hopes for the same contribution from Groton. No money will be expended until the group has raised the entire \$25,000 needed.

Councilors Flax and Sheets expressed support for the effort. Councilor O'Beirne noted that the Council has just been through a difficult budget time and this is not the year to make this type of donation. Discussion followed on potential economic benefits of the event(s).

5/25/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Motion
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to recommend for resolution a pledge of \$5,000 to TACC subject to the Town Manager identifying available funds in the 2010 budget

2010-0121 FYE 2010 Suspense List

Referral

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 SUSPENSE LIST

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectible have been contacted at least nine times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense List helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$458,012.15
Sewer District: \$2,356.96
Mumford Cove: \$3.09
Total: \$460,372.20

Legislative History

5/17/2010 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the

5/25/2010 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo and Tax Collector Nancy Dytke were present to address the Council. This request is to add taxes determined to be uncollectable by the Tax Collector to the Suspense List. The Tax Collector will no longer have to send bills, but the taxpayers are still liable.

5/25/2010 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

2010-0123 End Hunger CT!'s Operation Participation Grant Referral

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO OPERATE A 2010 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN GROTON

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides funding through the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs, for a Summer Food Service Program for Children, and

WHEREAS, the Summer Food Service Program for Children promotes and provides good nutrition during the summer months when at-risk, low-income children are not receiving the benefits of the Federal School Breakfast/Lunch Program through their schools, and

WHEREAS, units of local government may act as sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program and the Town of Groton Parks and Recreation Department is capable of administering Groton's Summer Food Service Program for Children, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs for the purpose of establishing and operating a Groton based Summer Food Service Program for Children, overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department and Administrative Services Department, during the months of June, July and August 2010 and sign claims for reimbursement, and therefore be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the absence or incapacity of the first designated individual (Town Manager Oefinger,) the Town Finance Director, Salvatore M. Pandolfo, is designated to sign claims for reimbursement.

Legislative History

5/18/2010 Mayor Referred Town Council Finance Commi

5/25/2010 Town Council Finance Committee Recommended for a Resolution

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT